



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
CMC-I
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From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: All General Officers
All Commanding Officers
All Officers in Charge

Subj: INTELLIGENCE

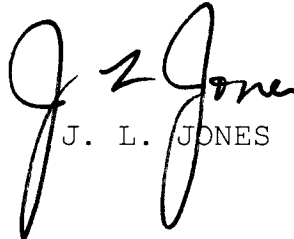
Ref: (a) MCDP-2

1. Intelligence is the indispensable precursor to operations. While this has always been true in the past, it will be even more critical to Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare (EMW) in the 21st century.
2. The Marine Corps' approach to intelligence demands the personal involvement of commanders in the conduct of intelligence activities. They focus the intelligence effort with precise guidance, clearly defined intelligence priorities, and critical intelligence requirements. Commanders must also realize that while intelligence is intended to reduce uncertainty on the battlefield, it will never eliminate it. The commander must understand the level of risk/uncertainty he is willing to accept. He must also define the level of effort required to gain the essential elements of information he requires to support his decision-making.
3. The future security environment will have significant impact on how intelligence is collected, processed and applied. Information, once a rare and valued commodity for any commander, has now proliferated to the point where it threatens to overwhelm his ability to make a reasoned decision. Success on the battlefield depends on our ability to manage information: to acquire it, to share it, and to act upon it.
4. The basic nature of intelligence will not change in EMW. Intelligence will continue to support planning and operations by providing basic infrastructure and geographic data, and assessments of threats to friendly forces in the area of operations. However, the EMW environment, characterized by extended distances, rapid deployment, compressed planning cycles, austere operating environments and the conceptual shift from mass to precision, will present Marine Corps Intelligence with new and unique challenges. Information and knowledge must be readily available and easily accessible to planners, decision-makers and commanders in order to take advantage of fleeting opportunities.

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5. Effective intelligence is a proven force multiplier. Over the past year, I have undertaken several initiatives to underscore my commitment to intelligence. I have established a separate Intelligence Department at Headquarters Marine Corps, and for the first time, we have selected a General Officer from within the intelligence field to lead it. I have designated the Marine Corps Intelligence Activity as a command in acknowledgement of its key role in developing an intelligence reach back capability for the Marine Corps of the 21st century. Additionally, I intend to establish a third Radio Battalion to provide this important capability in all three MEFs. I expect all of our commanders to follow my lead in this Corps-wide commitment to intelligence.

6. I charge each of you to get involved. Drive our intelligence efforts hard. Focus your peacetime intelligence effort on those areas where we are most likely to deploy. Support our Marine Corps wide effort to develop intelligence on those areas. Read MCDP-2 (Intelligence) and incorporate its concepts and processes into your commands.


J. L. JONES